**Promotion of ECO Tourism**

2288. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eco-tourism is fast growivg in the world;

(b) if so, what action plan the Ministry of tourism have to promote eco-tourism in India;

(c) whether any States/areas/spots have been identified by the Ministry to provide eco-tourism in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of States/areas/spots so identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) National Tourism Policy lays emphasis on promotion of eco-tourism. Ministry of Tourism has been providing Central Financial Assistance for development of tourism infrastructure including eco-tourism projects in States and Union Territories based on project proposals prioritized in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Some of the State Governments like Sikkim, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have implemented unique Eco-tourism projects in their States with Central Financial Assistance from Ministry of Tourism. The following sites have been identified/sanctioned for the development of eco tourism during 2004-05:

(i) Eco Tourism Development at Bhimband (Munger), Bihar for Rs.370.00 lakhs

(ii) Eco Tourism Development Valmiki Nagar (West Champaran), Bihar for Rs.407.20 lakhs.

(iii) Integrated Development of Eco Tourism at Point Calimere Wild Life Sanctuary, Muthupet, Tamil Nadu for Rs.368.00 lakhs.

**Rebuilding of Tourism Resorts in the Eastern Coast**

2289. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: